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ACTION RP-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2464
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 12065:N/A
TAGS: SREF, PK
SUBJ: FUNDS FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

REF: (A) STATE 35309 (B) ISLAMABAD 1094 (C) DAVIDSON-
RUSSELL TELCON 2/11/1980 (D) GENEVA 1730

1. PURSUANT TO REF TELCON, MISSION HAS DEFERRED TRANSMITTAL TO UNHCR OF PLEDGE LETTER COVERING DOLS ONE MILLION CONTRIBUTION FOR MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS, OPEN SURFACE WELLS AND LOCALLY PROCURED TENTS. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT DAVIDSON WILL DISCUSS DETAILS ON RETURN TO DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 14 AND THAT MISSION WILL RECEIVE FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.

2. DURING CONSULTATIONS IN GENEVA FEBRUARY 11-12 ON RETURN FROM PAKISTAN, RON DAVIDSON (RP) BRIEFED OFFICIALS OF UNHCR, ICRC AND LICROSS ON FINDINGS AND PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS OF LOY-DAVIDSON-GRIFFIN-HOLMES VISIT. DAVIDSON COVERED PRINCIPAL POINTS OF REF-B AND PROVIDED SUPPLEMENTARY DETAIL ON SPECIFIC NEEDS. IN TALKS WITH UNHCR (CUENOD, SAMPATKUMAR, LYONETTE, CHIPMAN, NGUYEN-TANG) DAVIDSON STRESSED NEED FOR RELIEF COMMODITIES, FOR MANAGEMENT OF LOGISTICS PIPELINE, FOR REGISTRATION EFFORT, FOR DEPLOYMENT OF UNHCR PERSONNEL

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AND FOR DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES. DISCUSSIONS WITH

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LICROSS (BIGHINATTI) AND ICRC (OLIVIER) CONCENTRATED ON LATTER POINT AND REVEALED SERIOUS DEFICIENCY IN COORDINATION BETWEEN UNHCR AND RED CROSS AGENCIES IN MEDICAL FIELD. BOTH UNHCR AND ICRC/LICROSS BUDGETS CONTAIN PROVISIONS FOR MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS, BUT, AT LEAST IN GENEVA, ORGANIZATIONS WERE UNFAMILIAR WITH ONE ANOTHER'S PLANNING. PENDING CLARIFICATION DAVIDSON RECOMMENDED THAT WE HOLD UP PLEDGE TO UNHCR FOR MOBILE UNITS.

3. PRESENT UNHCR SIX-MONTH BUDGET INCLUDES PROVISION FOR TWO MEDICAL PROGRAMS. UNDER AGREEMENT WITH GOP, UNHCR WOULD PURCHASE 9 VEHICLES (DOLS 125,000) TO BE USED BY GOP MOBILE DISPENSARIES. SECOND PROJECT WOULD FINANCE FOUR TEAMS STAFFED BY MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES BASED IN LARGER CITIES. UNHCR WOULD PROVIDE DOLS 640,000 TO COVER SALARIES FOR 14 STAFF MEMBERS PLUS PURCHASE OF 7 LANDROVERS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. SECOND SIX-MONTH PERIOD WILL INCLUDE DOLS 300,000 BUDGET ITEM FOR MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES. SIMULTANEOUSLY, FOLLOWING INITIAL JENKINS/LIEBESKIND SURVEY AND DISCUSSIONS WITH PAKISTAN RED CRESCENT, ICRC/LICROSS ISSUED APPEAL (REF-D) WITH SFR. 1,700,000 (DOLS 1.1 MILLION) MEDICAL PROGRAM FOR MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS (PROBABLY FOUR) WITH STAFF AND SUPPLIES.

4. IN ALL OF HIS PRESENTATIONS DAVIDSON EMPHASIZED USG SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT OF MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS AS MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF DELIVERING ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES TO REFUGEES IN REMOTE INACCESSIBLE AREAS. DRAWING ON DR. GRIFFIN'S DRAFT REPORT, HE NOTED PROBLEMS OF NUTRITION, WATER AND SANITATION, MALARIA CONTROL, UPPER
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RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS, PNEUMONIA AND MEASLES. WHILE FOOD, CLOTHING AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES WOULD CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED, HEALTH SITUATION WAS AMONG MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS FACING AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN. USG WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT RELIEF AGENCY PROGRAMS IN MEDICAL AREA, BUT WE WERE CONCERNED BY APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION AND CLARITY AS TO HOW MOBILE MEDICAL TEAMS WOULD OPERATE. WHICH AGENCIES WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHICH SERVICES TO WHICH REFUGEES ?

5. UNHCR'S CUENOD RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO OUR RAISING
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OF COORDINATION ISSUE BY CALLING MEETING FEBRUARY 12 WITH ICRC AND LICROSS. RESULT WAS AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR COORDINATION AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE AT ISLAMABAD LEVEL. MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO JENKINS AND KOHAUT.

6. IN RESPONSE TO OTHER POINTS CUENOD COMMENTED THAT KOHAUT WAS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING HIS FIRST FIELD TRIP AND THAT UNHCR WAS WAITING FOR HIS REPORT BEFORE ADDRESSING QUESTION OF ASSISTANCE IN BORDER AREAS. FOR PRESENT UNHCR WAS ADHERING TO PRINCIPLE AGREED WITH GOP THAT UNHCR WOULD NOT OPERATE ALONG BORDER. PRESENT DEPLOYMENT PLANS CALL FOR 10 POSITIONS IN ISLAMABAD, 6 IN QUETTA AND 5 IN PESHAWAR. HEADS OF BOTH SUB-OFFICES SHOULD NOW BE IN PLACE. OF TOTAL STAFF OF 21, APPROXIMATELY 5 WILL BE WOMEN (A NEED STRESSED BY DAVIDSON), AND 4 WILL BE LIAISON OFFICERS FROM OTHER AGENCIES (WFP, UNICEF). TO ASSIST GOP WITH REGISTRATION EFFORT, UNHCR HAD OFFERED A SPECIALIST (MOLANDER, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING ON REGISTRATION SYSTEM IN THAILAND). CONCERNING DISTRIBUTION CUENOD AGREED WITH DAVIDSON'S ASSESSMENT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO MONITOR PIPELINE OF FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF COMMODITIES, BUT THAT CONTROL AT CAMP LEVEL WAS COMPLICATED BY RELUCTANCE OF GOP TO ALLOW INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OR VOLUNTARY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES OPERATE IN THE CAMPS.
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